

How to Spread the Fragrance of Christ

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Corinthians 2:14.

B. Paul views himself as preaching the triumph of Christ through the gospel. He lived in glorious optimism.

II. Paul gives thanks to God.

A. Thanksgiving is a lifestyle.

B. The test of Christian character is how we react immediately before we have time to think.

C. Gratitude is the basic attitude of one who walks in the triumph of Christ.

III. God always causes us to walk in the triumphal procession of Christ.

A. God is still on plan A with us.

B. Christ triumphs through the cross. (Colossians 2:13-15)

C. We reign in life through Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17)

IV. When God views us he views us through Christ—he is our sacrificial “aroma.”

A. Some sacrifices were designed to bring us into union with God.

B. The aroma sacrifices were designed for those who were already in communion with God.

C. We are a fragrance to the whole human family—a fragrance of life for those who are alive and a fragrance of death for those who are dying spiritually.

Application questions:

1. How is a thankful attitude reflective of Christian character?

2. How can one reconcile two seemingly different pictures of the cross and triumph?

3. What does it mean to be an aroma for Christ? Explain.
